

PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGISTS IN ALASKA (cont.)

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An ABR is done while your baby is sleeping. A special sticker is placed on the forehead, and sounds are played into each ear through a small microphone. The responses of your baby's ears and nerves are detected and recorded into a computer. The audiologist will find the softest sound to which your baby responds.

Reference Information

A list of pediatric audiologists in Alaska is included in the side bar to the left. (Providers were identified through a survey. Every effort was made to provide accurate information, however, phone numbers and provider information may change. The Alaska Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program does not specifically endorse or recommend any providers.) If you need help in selecting an audiologist, your primary healthcare provider can assist you.

Name of audiologist _____

Date/time of appointment _____



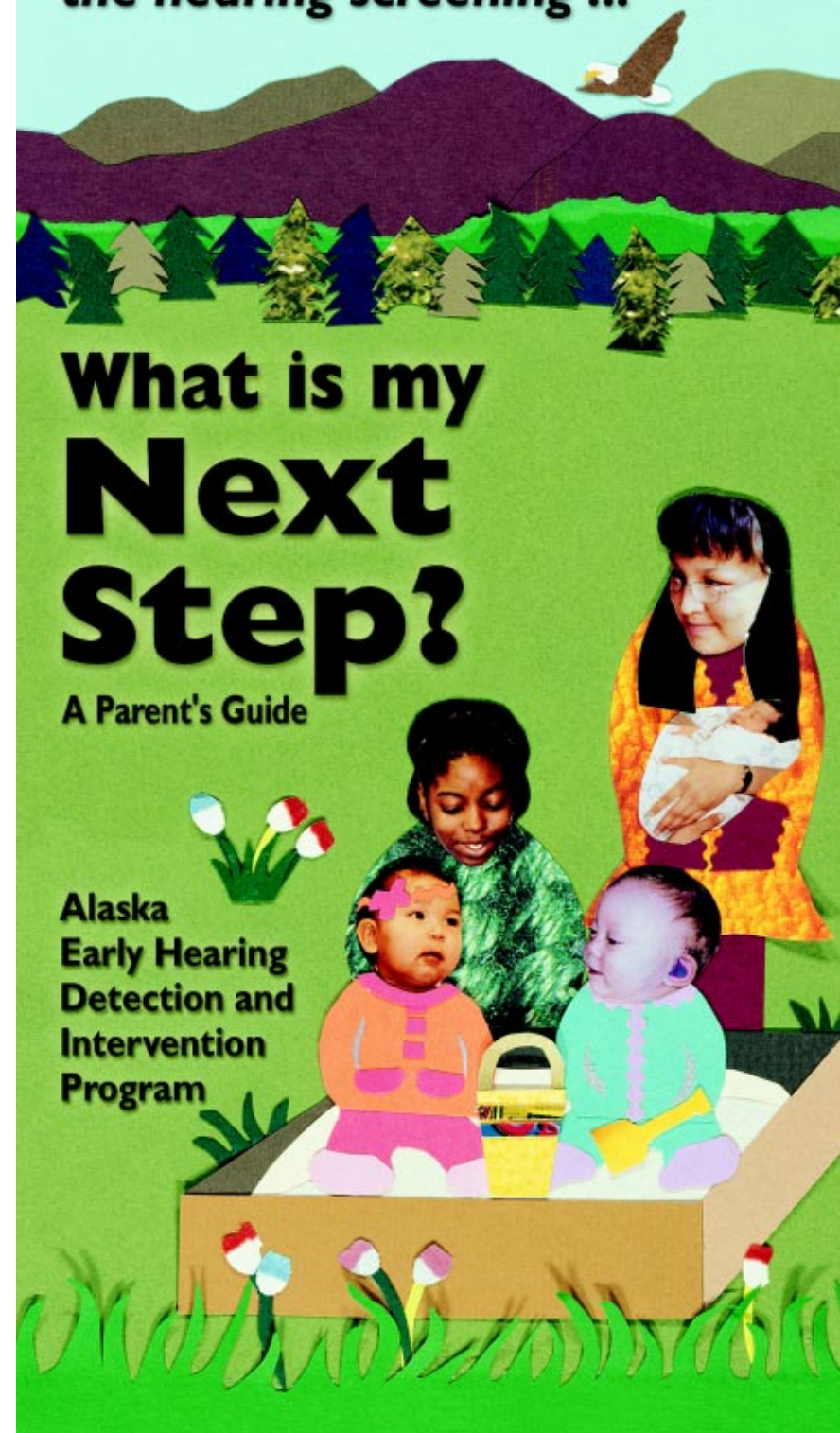
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
Section of Maternal, Child and Family Health
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/mcfh> • 907-269-3400

My newborn did not pass the hearing screening ...

What is my Next Step?

A Parent's Guide

**Alaska
Early Hearing
Detection and
Intervention
Program**



What does it mean if my baby does not pass the screening?

It does not necessarily mean that your baby cannot hear. It only means that your baby needs to be screened again while in the nursery. If your baby does not pass the second, or if necessary, third screen he/she will need to see an audiologist (hearing specialist) for a complete test to find out for sure if there is a hearing loss, and if so what kind of a hearing loss it is. The audiologist will also look at exactly how loud different sounds need to be in order for the baby to hear them. Your baby should see the audiologist before three months of age.

What should I do next?

There are many reasons why your baby may not pass the hearing screening. Your baby may have been too active, too awake, had fluid in the middle ear, debris in the ear canal from the birthing process, or a possible hearing loss.

The first step is to tell your healthcare provider that your baby needs a complete hearing test. For infants under 6 months of age, the test should include an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR).

An audiologist (hearing specialist) will do the testing. Your healthcare provider may suggest an audiologist, or you can choose one from the list included in this publication.

Schedule the appointment for testing as soon as possible. Do not delay more than one month because of ear infections. A special ABR can be done if your baby has an ear infection.

Most health insurance plans and Medicaid help pay for the hearing test.

Why test my baby's hearing now?

It has been shown that when a baby with hearing loss is identified before 3 months of age and begins receiving special services before 6 months of age, that normal language, social, and educational development can be reached. The earlier a hearing loss is picked up, the better the chance of developing normal language skills. Unfortunately, because hearing loss cannot be seen, it is easily missed in the early months of life.

When should I have my baby's hearing tested?

It is important that you follow through with any recommendations made by your hospital staff, audiologist, and/or other healthcare provider and have your baby tested for hearing loss as soon as possible. If you find hearing loss early, your baby can get help. If you start before your baby is 6 months old, he/she may learn language close to, or at the same rate as, babies who do not have hearing loss.

Who will perform the tests?

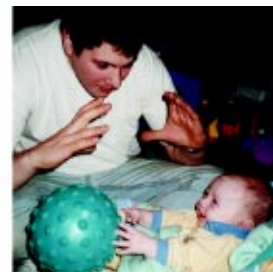
A pediatric audiologist (a professional who specializes in childhood hearing) will perform the tests. The audiologist tests hearing and decides if the baby has a hearing loss. The audiologist can also tell the type of hearing loss your baby has and what can be done. If your baby has a hearing loss, the audiologist can help you decide what to do next.

How will my baby's hearing be tested?

Every complete hearing test for babies should include an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR). This test measures how well the baby's ears and nerves respond to sounds.



Alaska Department
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